

"My parents have taught me about standards, acceptable behavior and respect for myself and others. Maybe more help could be given to parents to be parents. Maybe if they didn't have to give so much of their income away in taxes they could afford to stay home and be parents."

In response to the concerns expressed by young people such as Andrew, and thousands of parents, I am pleased that the Senate bill encourages the entertainment industry to voluntarily establish guidelines to reduce violence in motion pictures, television programming, video games, and music lyrics. The bill also encourages Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to provide filtering software to consumers that could block juvenile access to unsuitable material. These provisions will provide parents with the tools needed to reduce their children's exposure to the culture of violence.

Mr. President, there were several amendments offered to this legislation that would impose additional restrictions upon lawful Americans, without contributing to a reduction in juvenile crime. Throughout the debate over these proposals, I urged the Senate to promote greater enforcement of our existing firearms laws before passing new gun control measures that would infringe upon the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens. I am very concerned that prosecutions of those who violate federal firearms laws have been far less zealous than what the American people deserve and expect.

According to the Executive Office of the United States Attorney, there were only eight prosecutions in 1998 of those who violated the federal prohibition on possessing a firearm in a school zone. From 1996 through 1998, there was only one prosecution of felons who have been denied the purchase of firearms after being subjected to a background check. These statistics underscore the reality that passing new, expansive gun control laws will not prevent violent crime or the illegal use of firearms.

As an alternative to far-reaching gun control proposals, I supported an amendment that encouraged the enforcement of existing gun laws, the rights of law-abiding citizens, and keeping firearms from children and criminals. This proposal provided \$50 million to hire additional federal prosecutors to prosecute those who violate our gun laws; a prospective ban on juveniles convicted of violent offenses from ever owning a firearm; and enhanced penalties for juveniles who illegally bring a gun or ammunition to school with the intent of possessing or using the firearm to commit a violent crime.

Additionally, this proposal requires all firearms transactions at gun shows to be subject to the National Instant Check System (NICS) without subjecting law-abiding purchasers to unnecessary fees or record-keeping requirements. Importantly, this provision preserves legitimate business

transactions at gun shows while also addressing the public safety concerns of millions of Americans. In my view, this proposal was more reasonable than a more-restrictive proposal by Senator LAUTENBERG that was later passed by the Senate.

Mr. President, I believe the Senate passage of this bill is an important contribution to the national response to youth violence. The 106th Congress should seize the opportunity to pass meaningful and balanced legislation that will encourage local solutions to the complex problem of juvenile crime.●

RETIREMENT OF SISTER JANE FRANCIS BRADY

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Sister Jane Francis Brady, who is retiring after 30 years at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Paterson, New Jersey. For 27 of those years, Sister Jane served as the hospital's President and Chief Executive Officer. This not only is a well-deserved public tribute, but also a very personal tribute. Paterson is my hometown, and St. Joseph's Hospital has been an institution both literally and figuratively for generations of Paterson families, including my own. To thousands of people in New Jersey and the region, she is "Sister Jane" and the hospital is "St. Joe's." They are a union that has put quality and hope into so many lives.

For many people in the Paterson area, Sister Jane has been the soul, the spirit and the face of healthcare. I have been privileged to work with her on a number of projects that have expanded St. Joe's to meet the continually growing needs of the surrounding community. Under Sister Jane's stewardship, St. Joseph's Hospital has become a focus of wellness care and training—the source for preventive, primary and emergency health services, and for more general education and counseling.

Sister Jane's curriculum vitae is stellar. She has held the highest advisory positions on healthcare, serving as Vice-Chair of the New Jersey Commission on Legal and Ethical Problems in the Delivery of Health Care; on New Jersey's Health Care Administration Board; on the SEEDCO Board of Trustees of New York; on the Leadership Task Force on Health Policy Reform of the Catholic Health Association of the United States; and on the Board of Trustees of the Catholic Health Association of the U.S.

She has been recognized for her contributions by numerous organizations, receiving, among others, the Paterson Community Service Award; the Citation of Merit from the NJ Association of Nonprofit Homes for the Aging; the Paterson Community Support Fund Humanitarian Award; "Woman of the Year" awards from the American Legion, the Paterson Boys and Girls Club, the NJ State Organization of Cystic Fibrosis, the American Cancer Society,

and Passaic County Community College; the Felician College Founders Day Award; the Paterson Historic Preservation Commission's Heritage Award; and the Palestinian Heritage Foundation Humanitarian Award.

Sister Jane's retirement presents a huge challenge. We have the legacy of her intellect and passion; we have the solid foundation of her three decades of guidance; we have her enduring vision; but we will need an extraordinary talent to fill the void she leaves.

The best tribute we can give, the tribute we owe to Sister Jane, is the promise and commitment to find the best way to give the best healthcare to the most people. That was what she did. That was her gift of faith and strength.●

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF McDONALD COUNTY

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, this weekend will be doubly special for the residents of McDonald County in my home state of Missouri. On March 3, 1849, McDonald county was established by the State Legislature and named after Revolutionary War hero Alexander McDonald. Not only will this weekend mark the 223rd anniversary of the founding of our country, but it is also the formal celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of McDonald County.

McDonald County has a distinguished history, including a gold rush in the last century. McDonald County was also the site for the filming of a 1938 movie about Jesse James starring Tyrone Power, Randolph Scott, and Henry Fonda. More recently, every Christmas the Post Office in the city of Noel receives thousands of cards to receive the stamp of "The Christmas City." McDonald County is also a major economic force in the state of Missouri, ranking first in agricultural sales, due to their \$50 million poultry industry.

I join the citizens of McDonald County in celebrating this milestone in their history. I take great pride in recognizing this historic event and wish McDonald County prosperity in the next 150 years that is even greater than the last. Mr. President, I ask that my colleagues in the Senate join me in recognizing the sesquicentennial of McDonald County.●

PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I have informed the minority leader that I will object to any unanimous consent request to proceed to S. 1272 or any legislation containing provisions that would override Oregon's physician assisted suicide law. I have notified the bill's sponsor and the committee chairman and ranking member to which it was referred.●